BOOK REVIEW

STATISTICS FOR MATHEMATICIANS—AN INTRODUCTION--D. J. Finney. Published by Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh and London. pp vi+213. Net Price 63s.

The book is intended as the text for a course of about twenty lectures to students with no previous knowledge of probability or statitics. It introduces students to probability, properties of frequency distributions of observation and of derived statistics, experimental design, estimation and statistical inference. After the introductory ideas of Chapter I, in the second chapter the author introduces a particular problem of experimental science, around which the book is written. The basic notions of probability is introduced in chapter 3. Probability distributions, their properties and uses are the subject matter of chapters 4 and 5. Means, randomness and randomising, and the differences between means are discussed in chapters 6, 7 and 8 respectively. In chapters 9 and 10, S^2-, χ^2-and t-distributions, and their use are studied. Finally, in the last two chapters the author presents concisely designs of experiments and theory of estimation. It contains an appendix providing details of the methematical operations which are omitted from the text.

Through, the book is intended to introduce mathematical statistics to every serious student of mathematics, it will be useful to students of experimental sciences particularly for the last two chapters. Frequent reference to the interplay of the biological problems centering the particular problem (in chapter 2) may prove serious limitations on its use, contrary to the expectation of the author.

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